



# The SLO Down

*School Liaison Officer Newsletter for the Minot Air Force Base Community*

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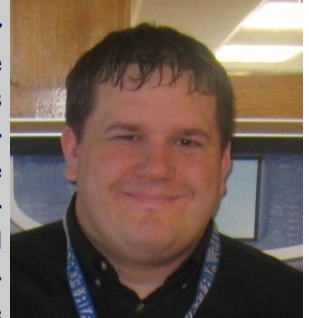
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A man who has never gone to school may steal from a freight car; but if he has a university education he may steal the whole railroad.

*Theodore Roosevelt*

## New School Liaison Officer for MAFB

My name is Matt Balas and I am the new School Liaison Officer (SLO) at Minot Air Force Base. I have been in Minot for a little over fifteen years and have held numerous professional positions including most recently the Director of STARBASE North Dakota. As SLO, my primary role is to promote and institutionalize systems which improve transitional support for our military families by establishing partnerships between the base and local schools and advocating for the educational needs of military students. Additionally, as SLO I will develop initiatives that increase



awareness of the unique needs of military children/families and provide a process to address and resolve education issues in accordance with national, DoD, Air Force and Major Command (MAJCOM) policies and objectives. I will also coordinate the delivery of the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) services in conjunction with all other installation EFMP components. Contained within this inaugural edition of 'The SLO Down' are articles that discuss home education in North Dakota, EFMP program information, summer activities for children, and some other useful school information. If you ever have any SLO questions or military child education questions, contact me anytime.

## Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children Passes in North Dakota

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of several state legislators, the Minot community, and base leaders, House Bill 1248, The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children successfully passed both state legislative houses April 27. After the bill is signed by the Governor, North Dakota will become the 38th state to join the Compact. The intent of the Compact is to make transition easier for the children of military families so that they are afforded the same opportunities for educational success as other children and are not penalized or delayed in achieving their educational goals. According to the National Center for Interstate Compacts, military families move on average every 2.9 years, which affects more than 1 million military children every year. The Compact addresses some specific educational issues including enrollment, placement & attendance, eligibility, and graduation. A child is eligible for assistance under the Compact if they are a child of an active duty member of the uniformed services, National Guard, and Reserve on active duty orders, member or veteran who has been medically discharged or retired for 1 year, or a child of a member who has died while on active duty. For more information regarding the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children check out [www.mic3.net](http://www.mic3.net) or contact the Minot Air Force Base School Liaison Officer at 723-1447 or [matthew.balas@minot.af.mil](mailto:matthew.balas@minot.af.mil).



*"We cannot solve our  
problems with the  
same thinking we  
used when we  
created them."  
Albert Einstein*



# Home Education in North Dakota

As defined by North Dakota Law, home education is an educational program for a child, based in the child's home, and supervised by the child's parent. If parents choose to supervise their child's education at home, a Statement of Intent must be filed with the home district. For anyone choosing to home school and who currently resides on Minot Air Force Base or within the Minot Public School District, the Statement of Intent must be filed annually with the Home Education Coordinator's office of the Minot Public Schools. This statement must be filed at least fourteen (14) days prior to the beginning of the program or within fourteen (14) days of establishing residency in the district. The statement must include:

- \* Name and address of supervising parent
- \* Date of birth/grade level of each child
- \* Intent of parent to supervise home instruction
- \* Proof of immunization record
- \* List of courses or extracurricular activities in which the child intends to participate
- \* List of any extracurricular activities planned for an approved, nonpublic school
- \* Proof of identity (birth certificate)

**For more information regarding home education in North Dakota contact the School Liaison Officer @ 723-1447 or [matthew.balas@minot.af.mil](mailto:matthew.balas@minot.af.mil).**

## Exceptional Family Member Program

The Air Force Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) is designed for military family members with special needs children who face unique and often times stressful situations. As a result, these parents find themselves, tired, frustrated and have little time to waste. Every Air Force family needs to know that enrollment in EFMP is mandatory for all active duty with a family member of special needs. If you believe your child has special needs, it is important that you bring those concerns to your child's pediatrician and to follow through with any and all recommendations that doctor makes. If EFMP enrollment is required, the process starts with the 5th Medical Group Family Advocacy Office. For those individuals enrolled in EFMP, family member's needs are considered during the assignment process to ensure any special medical and or educational requirements can be met prior to any relocation. Enrollment in the EFMP is mandatory under the following criteria contained in DoDI 1315.19:

- \*Potentially life-threatening conditions and/or chronic medical/physical conditions requiring follow-up support more than once a year or specialty care.
- \*Current and chronic mental health condition; inpatient or intensive outpatient mental health service within the last 5 years; intensive mental health services required presently.
- \*Diagnosis of asthma or other respiratory-related diagnosis with chronic recurring wheezing which meets criteria that is listed in the Department of Defense Instruction.
- \*Diagnosis of attention deficit disorder/attention deficit hyperactivity disorder which meets criteria that is listed in the Department of Defense Instruction.
- \*Requires adaptive equipment, assistive technology devices and/or services, and environmental/architectural considerations.

### Special Educational Needs

- \*Has or requires an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) or and Individualized Education Program (IEP).

**For any questions related to the EFMP check out AFI 40-701 and DoDI 1315.19. For information regarding the local EFMP you can either contact the A&FRC @ 723-3950 or the School Liaison Officer @ 723-1447.**

# Blue Star Museums

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The Blue Star Museums initiative is a partnership among Blue Star Families, the National Endowment for the Arts, and more than 1,000 museums across America. First launched in the summer of 2010, Blue Star Museums once again are offering free admission to active duty military personnel and their families from Memorial Day, May 30, 2011, through Labor Day, September 5, 2011. Here is the list of North Dakota museums that are participating in the Blue STAR Museum program:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| * <u><a href="#">Barnes County Historical Society Museum</a></u> Valley City, ND   | * <u><a href="#">Billings County Museum</a></u> Medora, ND               |
| * <u><a href="#">Former Governors' Mansion State Historic Site</a></u> Bismarck, ND  | * <u><a href="#">Fort Totten State Historic Site</a></u> Fort Totten, ND |
| * <u><a href="#">Fort Abercrombie State Historic Site</a></u> Abercrombie, ND  | * <u><a href="#">Plains Art Museum</a></u> Fargo, ND                     |
| * <u><a href="#">Gingras Trading Post State Historic Site</a></u> Walhalla, ND   | * <u><a href="#">Gateway to Science</a></u> Bismarck, ND                 |
| * <u><a href="#">State Historical Society of North Dakota</a></u> Bismarck, ND   | * <u><a href="#">Pembina State Museum</a></u> Pembina, ND                |
| * <u><a href="#">SHSND - Chateau de Mores State Historic Site</a></u> Medora, ND   | * <u><a href="#">Mercer County Museum</a></u> Beulah, ND                 |
| * <u><a href="#">Ronald Reagan Minuteman Missile State Historic Site</a></u> Cooperstown, ND                               |  |
| * <u><a href="#">Fort Buford State Historic Site/Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center</a></u> Williston, ND |  |

For more information about the program and to view a list of other participating museums check out:  
<http://www.arts.gov/national/bluestarmuseums/index2011.php>

## North Dakota Operation Military Kids

### BRAVO Day Camps:

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| *Roosevelt Park, Minot July 12        | *Turtle River State Park, Arvilla, July 14 |
| *Bagg Bonanza Farm, Mooreton, July 19 | *Fort Lincoln State Park, Mandan, July 21  |
| *Elmwood Park, West Fargo, July 26    | *Prairie Outpost Park, Dickinson, July 29  |

Ages 5—12

Each day camp offers a core program designed to engage youth from military families in connecting with other kids who may share a similar experience. Each camp also will offer local learning resources such as archery, fishing, or outdoor skills. The camps will be hosted by the local county Extension office and led by state OMK Camp Team staff. The registration fee is \$10. Campers are encouraged to bring a friend.

### Five-Day Resident Camps:

Held at the Western 4-H Camp near Washburn. The camp dates are:

\*June 5-9, Outdoor Adventures for Military Connected Youth-It will offer a traditional camp experience for youth 8 to 14 years old with sessions that focus on the life events youth face as a military family member.

\*June 26-29, Military Youth Camp for youth 8 to 11 years old

\*July 10-14, Military Youth Camp for youth 12 to 14 years old

Kids attending Military Youth Camp will experience components of military life, including a military-based obstacle course, an introduction to all branches of the military, formations, military equipment, and deployment discussions. All of the camps will use activities from the OMK resources to build communication and coping skills, and the ability to deal with stress. Registration fee is \$75.

Contact: Diane Hahn @701-231-9601 or email [diane.f.hahn@ndsu.edu](mailto:diane.f.hahn@ndsu.edu)  
Register online at: [http://www.ndsu.edu/4h/programs\\_events/omk/](http://www.ndsu.edu/4h/programs_events/omk/)



## School Liaison Office

**Airman & Family Readiness Center**  
**5 FSS/FSFR**  
**22 Peacekeeper Place**  
**Minot Air Force Base, ND 58705**  
**Phone: 701-723-1447**  
**Fax: 701-723-2922**  
**DSN: 453-1447**

## Helping Students Succeed

## MINOT AFB SCHOOL BOARD POSITION AVAILABLE

### REQUIREMENTS

- Must reside on base
- Active duty enlisted, reservists, and family members only
- Must not be an employee of Minot Public Schools
- Need not have children in the public schools

**\*\*Pursuant to DoDD 1344.10, paragraph 4.2.4.2, and AFI 51-902, paragraph 6.4, officers are not eligible to serve on the Minot AFB School Board as it is not an independent school district.**

**\*\*\*Spouses Highly Encouraged\*\*\***

**APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT DAKOTA  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**Submit your application to Dakota Elementary School by 15 June 11. If you have any questions, please contact Tony Keys at 727-0513, Shayna Hughes at 509-6176, or Cameron Peters at 330-3275.**

## Military Child Resources

[www.militarychild.org](http://www.militarychild.org)  
[www.stomppproject.org/](http://www.stomppproject.org/)  
[www.soarathome.com/](http://www.soarathome.com/)  
[www.operationmilitarykids.org](http://www.operationmilitarykids.org)  
[www.usa4militaryfamilies.dod.mil](http://www.usa4militaryfamilies.dod.mil)  
[www.saluteourservices.org/](http://www.saluteourservices.org/)  
[www.dodea.edu/](http://www.dodea.edu/)  
[www.tutor.com/military](http://www.tutor.com/military)  
[www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil](http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil)  
[www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com)  
[www.minot.k12.nd.us](http://www.minot.k12.nd.us)  
[www.dpi.state.nd.us/](http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/)  
[www.minot.af.mil](http://www.minot.af.mil)

### *Did you know...*

*Parents of students who are not residents of Minot Public School District #1 or the Minot Air Force Base Public School District #160, but wish to have their children attend any of the three school buildings located on the Minot Air Force Base, may apply for open enrollment for their children to attend school on base.*

## Minot Public School District Board Members 2011-12

### MPS Board

Nancy Langseth-President  
 Jim Rostad  
 Roger Kluck  
 Laura Mihalick  
 Vacant

### MAFB

TSgt Tony Keys-President  
 Shayna Hughes  
 TSgt Byron Brown  
 TSgt Cameron Peters  
 Vacant